

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for reproducing and outputting program information, comprising:

5 a reproduction unit which reproduces the program information recorded on a recording medium;

an output unit which outputs the reproduced program information; and

10 a controller which controls a reproducing operation carried out by the reproduction unit,

wherein the controller comprise

15 an image-data registering device which acquires image data from a recording medium on which the program information including the image data is recorded and registers the acquired image data into a memory, and

20 an image-data outputting device which reads out the image data from the memory and outputs the read-out image data to the output unit in cases where audio data is reproduced from a recording medium on which the program information including the audio data but including no image data is recorded.

2. An apparatus for reproducing and outputting program information, comprising:

25 a storage unit configured to contain a plurality of recording mediums on which program information is recorded;

a reproduction unit which reproduces the program information recorded on any one of the plurality of recording mediums;

30 an output unit which outputs the reproduced program information; and

a controller which controls a reproduction operation carried out by the reproduction unit, wherein the controller comprises

an image-data registering device which acquires image data from, of the plurality of recording mediums, a recording medium on which the program information including the image data is recorded and registers the acquired image data into a memory,  
5 and

an image-data outputting device which reads out the image data from the memory and outputs the read-out image data to the output unit in cases where audio data is reproduced from, of the plurality of recording mediums, a recording medium on which  
10 the program information including the audio data but including no image data is recorded.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image-data registering device acquires the image data at random from the  
15 recording medium including the image data in the program information.

4. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the image-data registering device acquires the image data at random from the  
20 recording medium including the image data in the program information.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an input unit for accepting a selection instruction from a user,  
25 wherein the image-data registering device provides the user with the acquired image data by way of the output unit, prompts the user to select one or more image data among the provided image data, and registers into the memory the image data selected by way of the input unit operated by the user.

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6. The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an input unit for accepting a selection instruction from a user,  
wherein the image-data registering device provides the

user with the acquired image data by way of the output unit, prompts the user to select one or more image data among the provided image data, and registers into the memory the image data selected by way of the input unit operated by the user.

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7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an input unit for accepting a selection instruction from a user,

wherein the image-data registering device provides the user with the acquired image data by way of the output unit in cases where a plurality of image data have been acquired from any one recording medium to be recorded on the memory, prompts the user to select image data to be representative among the provided image data, and registers into the memory the image data selected by way of the input unit operated by the user, the registered image data functioning as representative image data of the one recording medium.

8. The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an input unit for accepting a selection instruction from a user,

wherein the image-data registering device provides the user with the acquired image data by way of the output unit in cases where a plurality of image data have been acquired from any one recording medium to be recorded on the memory, prompts the user to select image data to be representative among the provided image data, and registers into the memory the image data selected by way of the input unit operated by the user, the registered image data functioning as representative image data of the one recording medium.

9. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the image-data outputting device reads out the registered representative image data from the memory to output the read-out representative image data to the output unit.

10. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the image-data  
outputting device reads out the registered representative image  
data from the memory to output the read-out representative image  
5 data to the output unit.

11. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image-data  
registering device acquires image data of a still picture in  
preference to other types of image data.

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12. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the image-data  
registering device registers into the memory both of the acquired  
image data and positional information matched with each other,  
the positional information indicating a storage position of the  
15 recording medium on which the acquired image data is recorded.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising  
a relationship providing device which provides to the user a  
relationship between the image data recorded on the memory and  
20 the storage-positional information of the recording medium by  
way of the output unit.

14. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the controller  
further comprises

25 an ejection detecting device which detects an ejected  
state of a recording medium stored in the storage unit;

a registration determining device which determines  
whether the image data has been acquired from the recording medium  
and recorded on the memory in cases where the ejecting operation  
30 of the recording medium is detected by the ejection detecting  
device; and

an image-data deleting device which deletes the image  
data from the memory in cases where it is determined by the register

determining device that the image data is registered on the memory.

15. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the output unit has a display device for displaying image data,

5 wherein the display device displays, as a background image, the image data outputted from the image-data outputting device.

16. A method of reproducing program information recorded on recording medium and outputting the reproduced program information,  
10 comprising the processes of:

acquiring image data from a recording medium on which the program information including the image data is recorded;

registering the acquired image data into a memory; and

reading out the registered image data from the memory and

15 outputting the read-out image data in cases where audio data is reproduced from a recording medium on which the program information including the audio data but including no image data is recorded.

20 17. An information recorded medium wherein a program for computer which controls reproduction and output of program information recorded on recording medium, is recorded so as to be read by the computer, the program makes the computer function as:

25 acquiring image data from a recording medium on which the program information including the image data is recorded;

registering the acquired image data into a memory; and

reading out the registered image data from the memory and

30 outputting the read-out image data in cases where audio data is reproduced from a recording medium on which the program information including the audio data but including no image data is recorded.

18. An information recorded medium wherein a program for computer which controls reproduction and output of program information recorded on any one of a plurality of recording mediums, is recorded so as to be read by the computer, the program makes  
5 the computer function as:

acquiring image data from, of the plurality of recording mediums, a recording medium on which the program information including the image data is recorded;

registering the acquired image data into a memory; and  
10 reading out the image data from the memory and outputting the read-out image data in cases where audio data is reproduced from, of the plurality of recording mediums, a recording medium on which the program information including the audio data but including no image data is recorded.

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